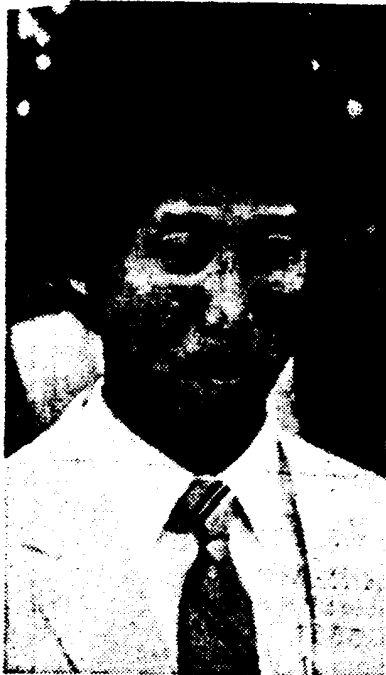


Star-Bulletin

Wong's Eerie Life in Executive Suite

From Bribing Gypsies to Fraudulent Funerals



Sunlin "Sunny" Wong
Gypsy readings, fake funerals

By Charles Memminger
Star-Bulletin Writer

Sunlin "Sunny" Wong found himself doing some strange things as president of Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong.

At Ronald Rewald's request, Wong once tried to bribe a Wai-kiki gypsy to give a fake spiritual reading to an elderly woman. Rewald was trying to cultivate as an investor.

Another time, he attended the Los Angeles "funeral" of Randall Dillingham, the non-existent "Dillingham" in the company's title.

Wong was returned from a federal prison in Lompoc, Calif., to tell a federal jury about these and other incidents during Rewald's trial yesterday.

The 36-year-old real estate man

said he knew little about what the company did, even though he was the president. In fact, he said, he did not even read the incorporation documents when they were signed in October 1978.

WONG CLAIMS he did not know that millions of dollars of investors' money was being brought into the company and spent on company overhead and Rewald's extravagant lifestyle. Despite his denial, Wong last year pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud in connection with the company's operation.

According to Wong, there was no discussion about what the name of the company would be. The first time he saw the names

Bishop, Baldwin and Dillingham was at the offices of attorney Dana Smith when the incorporation papers were signed, he said.

That directly contradicts Rewald's sworn statement about how the company got its name. In a secret affidavit, Rewald said the company was set up at the suggestion of then-CIA bureau chief Eugene Welch.

"Sunny and I considered some names at the direction of the station chief ... and finally came up with a combination called Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong," Rewald said in the affidavit.

BUT WONG said he did not take part in any of the planning that led to the formation of Bishop, Baldwin, except to agree to become Rewald's partner in a consulting firm.

He agreed to put up 25 percent of his company, Sunny Wong Realty, and Rewald would put up 24 percent of his company, CMI, to start the consulting company, Wong said.

But under questioning by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Peyton, Wong admitted that he did not even ask how much CMI was worth or what it did. Peyton said in his opening statement that CMI never had any assets and never did any business.

Wong said he had no part in deciding what position he would fill in the new company.

"Mr. Rewald was the one who said I could be president," Wong said.

WHEN ASKED why he didn't question Rewald more about what Bishop, Baldwin would do, why there were three other names in the title, and what Rewald's business background was, Wong said, "It didn't really matter."

"It was the formation of a company that I had no intention of being involved in," Wong said.

He said he continued to run his real estate business, first in the Amfac Building and then in the brand-new Grosvenor Center, while Rewald ran Bishop, Baldwin.

Wong said he was told by Rewald that their company also would provide a telephone and

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telex answering service for a CIA front company, H&H Enterprises. But he said the only calls he ever received on the CIA line were "wrong numbers."

The only time he used the telex machine, Wong said, was to set up hotel reservations in Norway, Taiwan and Hong Kong for his honeymoon.

WONG WAS there when Rewald wanted him to do odd jobs relating to the company.

For instance, he agreed to try to find a house for a Wisconsin woman who had been a friend of Rewald's relatives.

Rewald was cultivating Bea Borkenhagen as an investor into his sporting goods stores and then in BBRD&W and wanted her to move to Hawaii. Borkenhagen, however, could not find a house she liked.

Wong said Rewald told him to try to bribe a Walkiki gypsy Borkenhagen visited to tell Borkenhagen that she would be successful in finding a house she liked during one of her trips to Hawaii. The gypsy refused to take the \$50, Wong said.

Borkenhagen, who is confined to a wheelchair, testified Tuesday that she eventually did invest money with Rewald. When the company collapsed in 1983, she lost her life savings of \$143,000.

WONG SAID Rewald also asked him to write a death notice for Randall Dillingham, the supposed "Dillingham" in the company name. He then agreed to go to Los Angeles for a day to give people the impression that he was attending Dillingham's funeral.

Also in 1983, Wong said, Rewald asked him to change the minutes of the 1978 incorporation meeting to show that a Bishop and Baldwin were present at the meeting. That way, the names could be put on annual corporate exhibits.

Attorney Smith, however, told

Wong that it would be illegal. As a result, the only directors listed in state registration documents were Rewald, Wong and Smith.

But other than those chores, Wong said, he "had no duties" as president of what was purported to be a \$1 billion, international investment consulting firm.

Wong said he brought in Sue Wilson, a woman he had dated, to be a secretary at Bishop, Baldwin. In an effort to "sell" Rewald on the idea of hiring Wilson, Wong told him she had worked for the National Security Agency.

Wilson had been a secretary at the agency for several years before quitting and holding a number of odd jobs.

WHEN HIRED by Wong, Wilson was working as a secretary for the Honolulu Board of Realtors, Wong said.

Wong said he did not know what the National Security Agency was but figured Rewald would be in favor of hiring her because of that background.

Wong was expected to be on the stand throughout today as questioning continues about his involvement in the company.

He is serving a two-year sentence after pleading guilty to mail and securities fraud in connection with the collapse of Bishop, Baldwin.

Rewald, who faces 98 counts of fraud, perjury and tax evasion, claims that the CIA set up and ran the offices.